

# Absolutism

- Entrance task: Think: What gives a person power over you?
  - > What type of power would absolute rulers have over their people?
- Today: Absolutism in Western Europe
- Homework: Finish Ch. 16-1

## The Absolute State

- monarchs ruled by divine right
- sovereignty = the ruler
- regulated religious sects
- abolished some liberties
- allied with nobility

# The Absolute State

- solution to economic problems was the key to the monarch's power and success
- bureaucrats served the king, not themselves
- permanent standing army
- secret police

## Henry IV r. 1589-1610



Henry IV



Duke of Sully

- first to establish the **Bourban** family
- began to curtail privileges of the French nobility (**the paulette**)
- Protestant but converted to Catholicism in 1593 because, "Paris is worth the Mass."
- issued the **Edict of Nantes**
- the **Duke of Sully** – finance minister – revived royal authority
- collected taxes to pay for a standing army, consolidated justice, repaired roads, encouraged new business ventures, kept the peace
- Assassinated in 1610 & succeeded by his 9-year-old son (Louis XIII)

# Louis XIII r. 1610 – 1643



- King at age 9
- French nobles and the Huguenots tried to press for their own interests at the expense of royal authority
- **Marie de Medici**, the queen mother, engaged the assistance of **Cardinal Richelieu** to serve as Louis' chief minister in 1628

# Cardinal Richelieu

Richelieu reduced power and influence of nobility

destroyed fortified castles

established 32 districts run by **intendants** to enforce orders and weaken the nobility in the district

deprived Huguenots of fortified cities





# Cardinal Richelieu

- led France into the **Thirty Years' War** in support of **Protestant cause** in order to defeat its Catholic Habsburg rivals who ruled Austria and Spain
- Urban protests (*the fronde*) due to unemployment, high food prices, grain shortages, new taxes
- only one law – the king's



Louis XIII

# Louis XIII

Mazarin



- By 1648, France was the most powerful country on the continent
- **Cardinal Mazarin** succeeded Richelieu and continued the same policies
- the **Fronde** – 1648-1653 protests – began in provinces as civil wars against taxation and growing royal power, frightening young Louis XIV (Louis XIII died in 1643)



Richelieu



## Louis XIV



Became king at age 4 after the death of his father, Louis XIII in 1643

Louis' mother, **Anne of Austria** served as the regent, but Cardinal **Mazarin** was the real ruler of France until his death in 1661



## Personal Characteristics

"I am the state"—Louis used this expression to describe his role

*What does this say about his view of himself?*

Extravagant lifestyle—Louis XIV spent royal money on lavish meals, clothing and palaces

Every morning, his nobles would be waiting to dress him when he awoke. If a noble was not there, Louis XIV considered him unimportant

# Louis XIV



“The Sun King”

r. 1643 - 1715

## Louis XIV r. 1643-1715


- represented the height of absolutism
- claimed to rule by divine right – the Sun King
- countless wars left France deeply in debt and eventually to the collapse of the French monarchy in the 18th century
- kept enemies (nobility) close at hand at Versailles
- established councils of upper middle class
- never called the Estates General
- Louis XIV **revoked Edict of Nantes** in 1685

page 71

### Accomplishments & events of his reign

#### Examples of Absolute rule

- Ruled alone
- Continued Richelieu's expansionism
- Ordered nobles to live at Versailles
- Reorganized the army
- Revoked Edict of Nantes
- Supported & promoted the arts



*Louis XIV*  
r. 1661-1715

#### Personal characteristics


- Child king guided by Mazzarin until age 23
- Inspired by the Fronde as a child, distrusted nobility
- The Sun King - "I am the state"
- Believed in divine right
- Devout Catholic
- Mercantilist

#### Wars

- At war with much of Europe at one time or another, often against coalitions
- Threatened the European balance of power
- War of the League of Augsburg (1689-1697) – ended the dream of expanding to France's 'natural borders'
- War of Spanish Succession – 1701-1713

## Events of His Reign

- ✦ Peace of Westphalia in 1648 officially ended the powers of the Holy Roman Empire
- ✦ Louis then began increasing his central control of the government
- ✦ Tried to make France economically self-sufficient with the help of **Jean Baptiste Colbert** (minister of finance)
  - ◆ Gave government support to French companies
  - ◆ Encouraged Mercantilism (people moved to Canada to provide fur for manufacturing and a market for goods)



*J.B. Colbert*

## Accomplishments

- ➡ Appointed **intendants** to collect taxes, recruit soldiers and administer royal policies
- ✦ Taxed businesses, promoted trade and established high tariffs to promote his government
- ✦ Reorganized the French army and increased its size to 400,000 troops
- ✦ Encouraged the exploration and settlement of Canada in order to give France more territory

### ✦ Palace of Versailles

- ◆ Louis made Versailles the center of his government (12 miles from Paris)
- ◆ Most of the French nobles lived with him at Versailles
- ◆ Why do you think Louis XIV required most of the nobility to reside at Versailles?
- ◆ What was Louis' purpose in building the palace so luxuriously?

### ✧ Increased interest in the arts

- ◆ Danced the title role in the ballet, *The Sun King*
- ◆ The purpose of art changed since the Middle Ages and the Renaissance
  - What was the new purpose of art?
    - ◆ To glorify the monarch

✧ In order to accomplish all of these things, Louis XIV spent enormous amounts of money

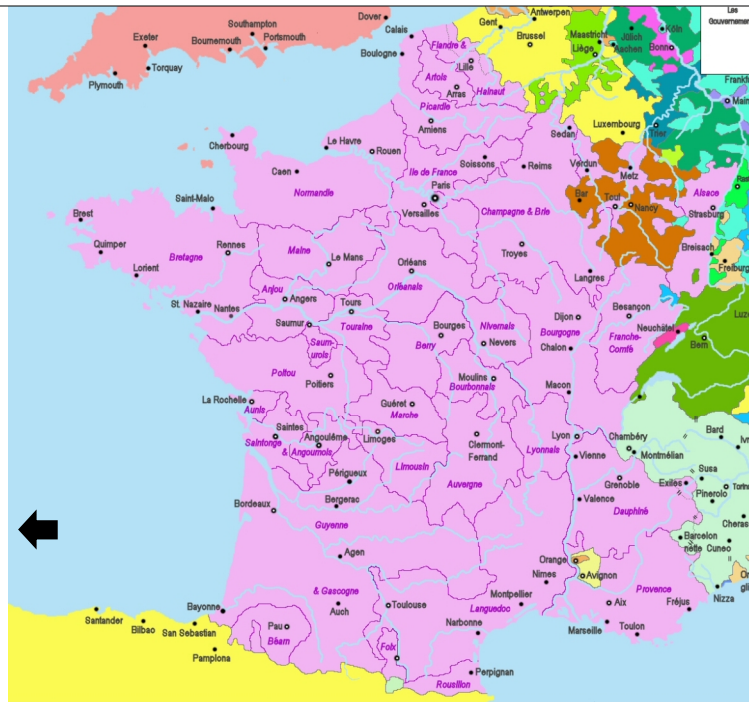
- ◆ By the end of his reign in 1715, the debt of the Royal family was about 2.1 trillion dollars

✧ Are expenditures an example of absolutism?



# Louis XIV's Absolute Qualities

✧ Which of the notes on your pictograph qualify Louis XIV as an absolute monarch?



The dark purple lines denote the French gouvernements in 1700. The gouvernements were military commands of provinces and had little meaning as regards the administration of France. They more or less equaled the provinces. These had their own laws and institutions and were the internal borders in the minds of the French. The provinces were destroyed by the revolution. They were replaced by départements and later régions, which are chosen by universal suffrage since 1986. Some régions overlap the provinces, and some don't. All this can be confusing for tourists.

The French borders are those of 1700. Changes caused by the Peace of Utrecht are marked with grey striped lines. There were losses in Flanders & Hainaut and in the Dauphiné. France gained the valley of Barcelonnette and the principality of Orange. The settlement with the Duke of Savoy is further clarified by marking the passes in the Alps with small parallel lines. France lost control of the only two passes which were on its territory.

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*The Palace of Dreams*

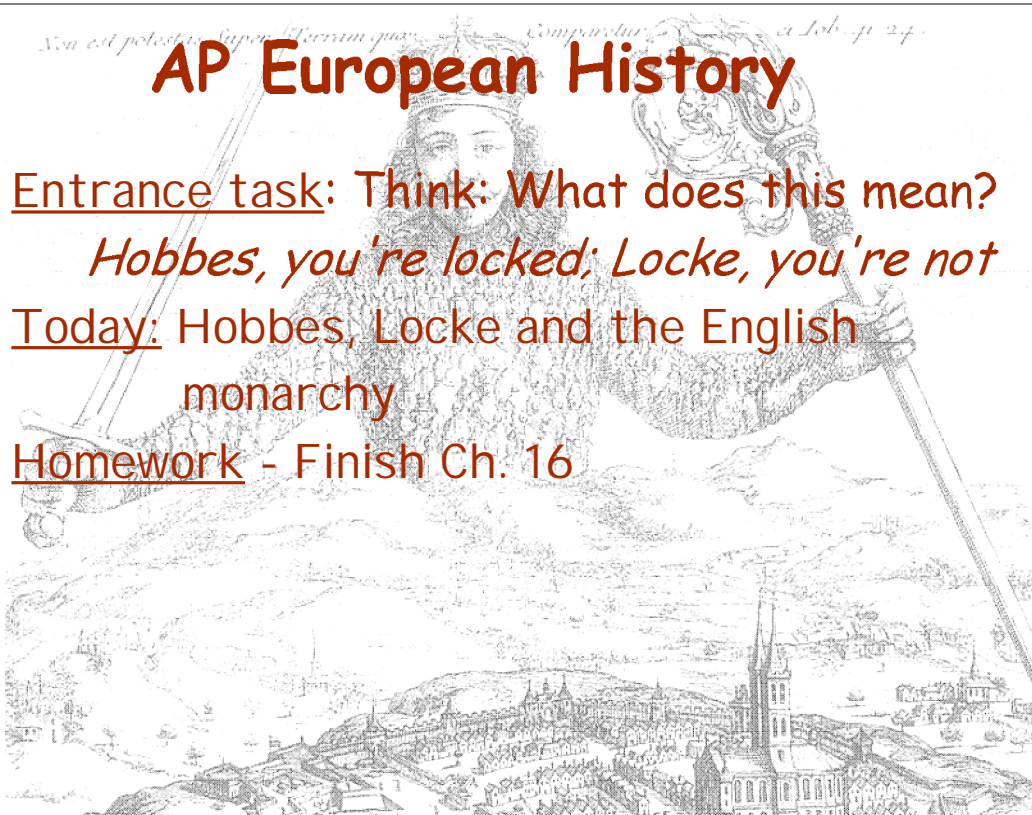
## AP European History

Entrance task: Think: What does this mean?

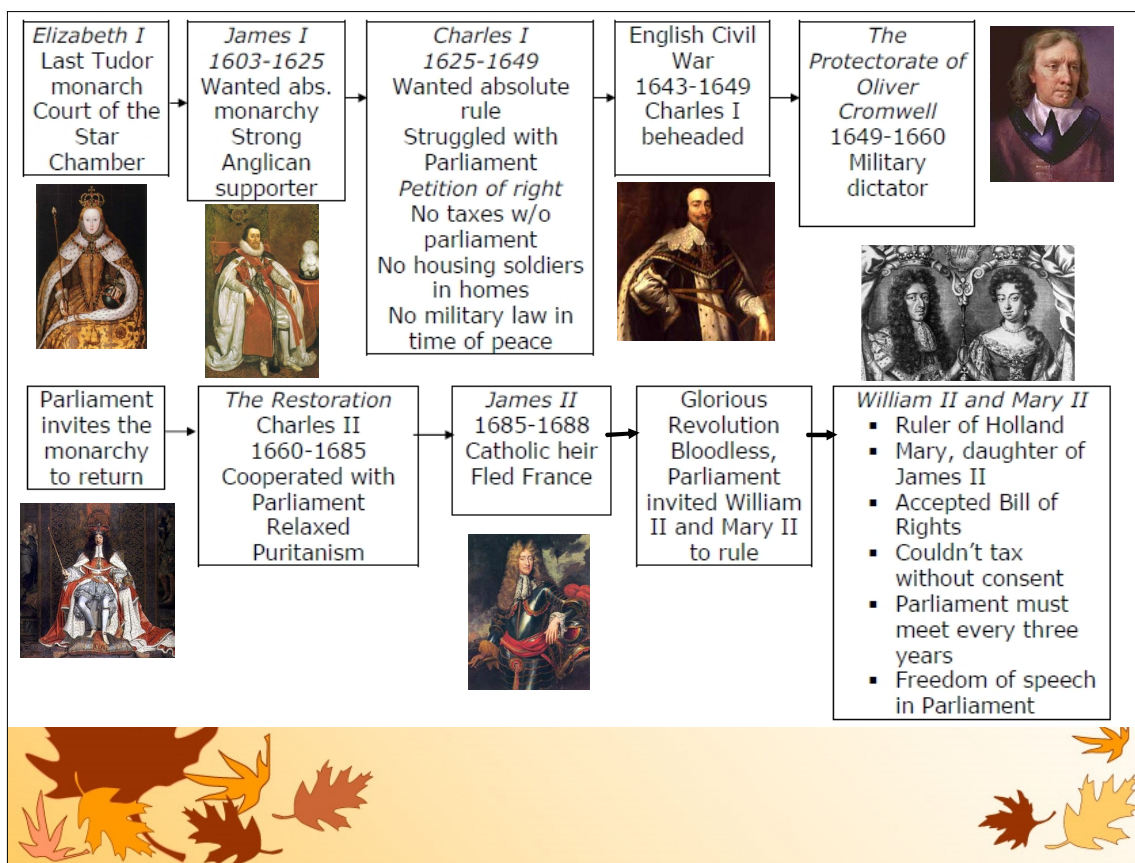
*Hobbes, you're locked; Locke, you're not*

Today: Hobbes, Locke and the English  
monarchy

Homework - Finish Ch. 16







## Leviathan

By Thomas Hobbes

\* Written during the English Civil War and published in 1651

\* Viewed with the same historical significance as *The Prince*





Non est potestas Super Terram quae  
Comparetur ei. Iob. 41. 24

*There is no power on earth to be  
compared to him.*  
**Job 41:24**



Earthly power

Power of the Church

Castle

Crown

Cannon

Weapons

Battlefield



Church

Mitre (bishop's hat)

Excommunication

Logic

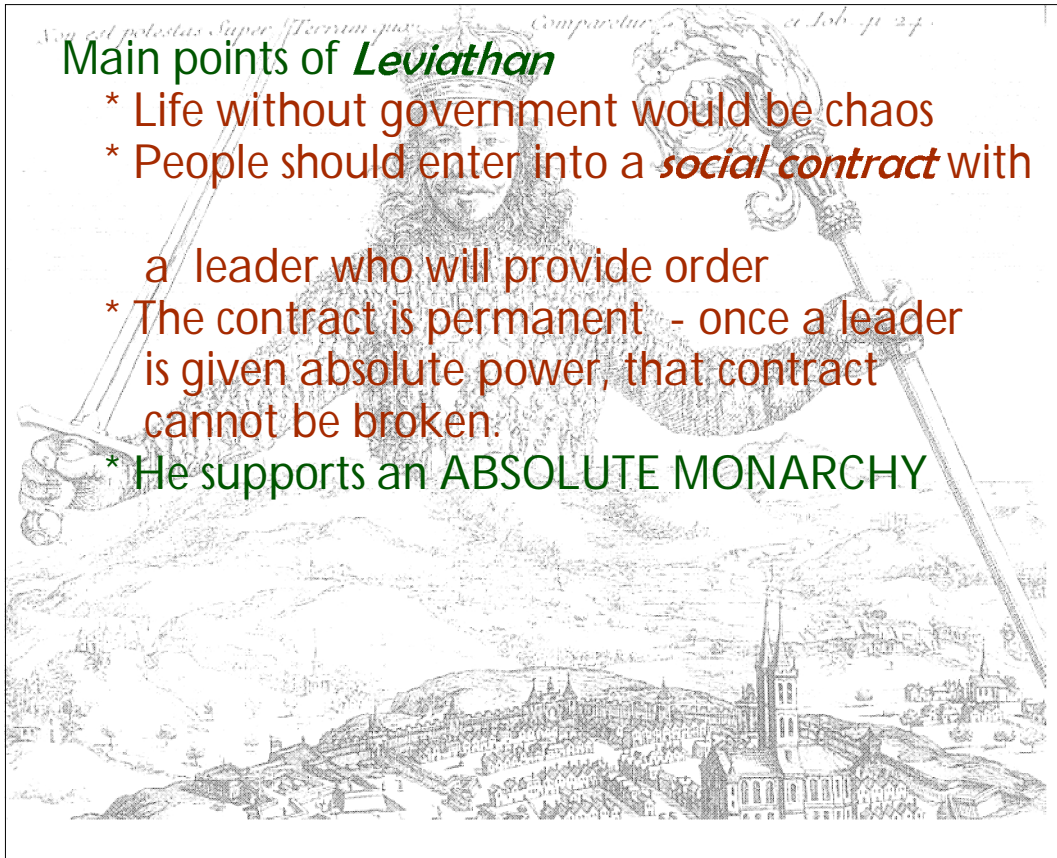
Religious courts



The Sovereign holds symbols of both the state and church and his body is comprised of the people, representing the state.







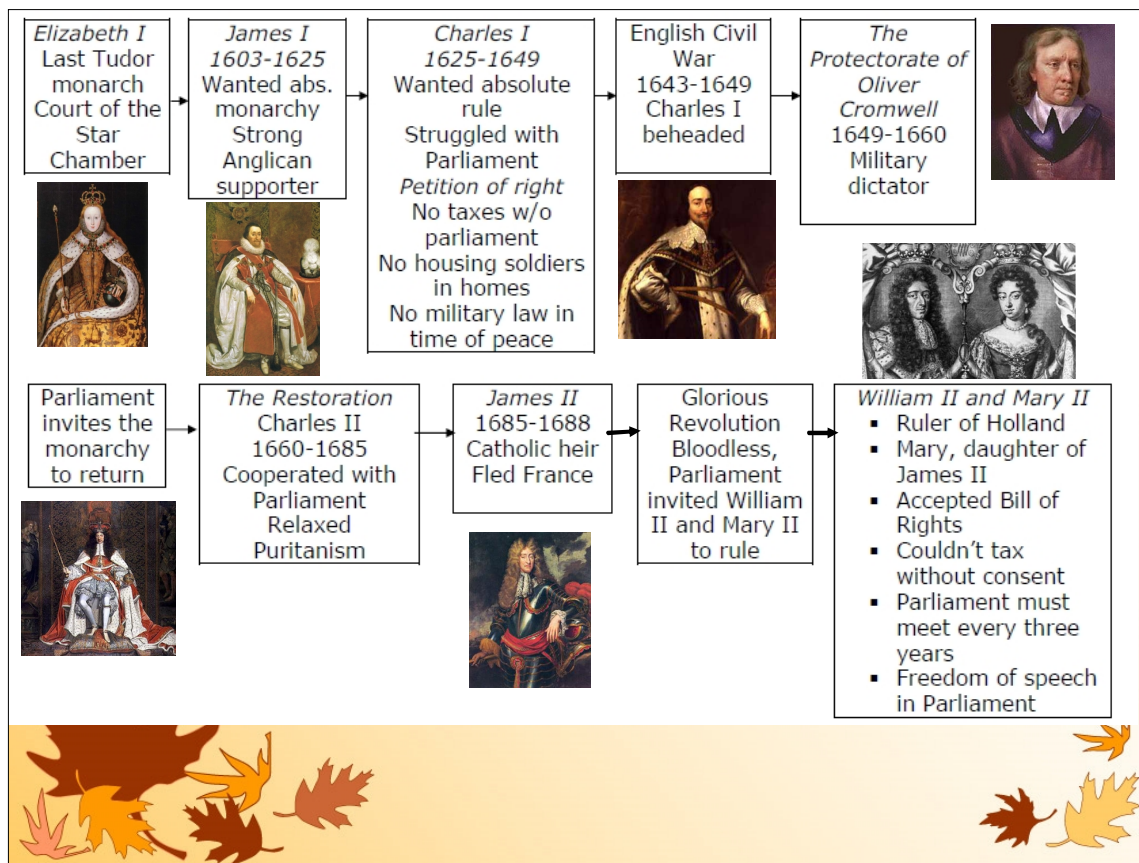
The image is the frontispiece of Thomas Hobbes' 'Leviathan'. It depicts a sovereign figure, the Leviathan, standing on a hill and holding a sword in his right hand and a crosier (a bishop's staff) in his left. The figure is surrounded by a cloud of people, representing the subjects of the state. Below the figure, a detailed cityscape is visible, including a large church with a tall spire. The text 'Main points of *Leviathan*' is written in green at the top left. The text 'Life without government would be chaos' is written in red at the top right. The text 'People should enter into a *social contract* with a leader who will provide order' is written in red in the middle. The text 'The contract is permanent - once a leader is given absolute power, that contract cannot be broken.' is written in red at the bottom left. The text 'He supports an ABSOLUTE MONARCHY' is written in green at the bottom right.

Main points of *Leviathan*

- \* Life without government would be chaos
- \* People should enter into a *social contract* with a leader who will provide order
- \* The contract is permanent - once a leader is given absolute power, that contract cannot be broken.
- \* He supports an ABSOLUTE MONARCHY

### John Locke -

- \* Second Treatise of Civil Government (1690)
- \* Believed that government was a contract between the ruled and the ruler
- \* Power to govern came from the consent of the people
- \* Ruler must protect the *natural rights* (life, liberty, property) of the people
- \* If and when the gov. fails to do this, it should be overthrown.
- \* He supports a DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT



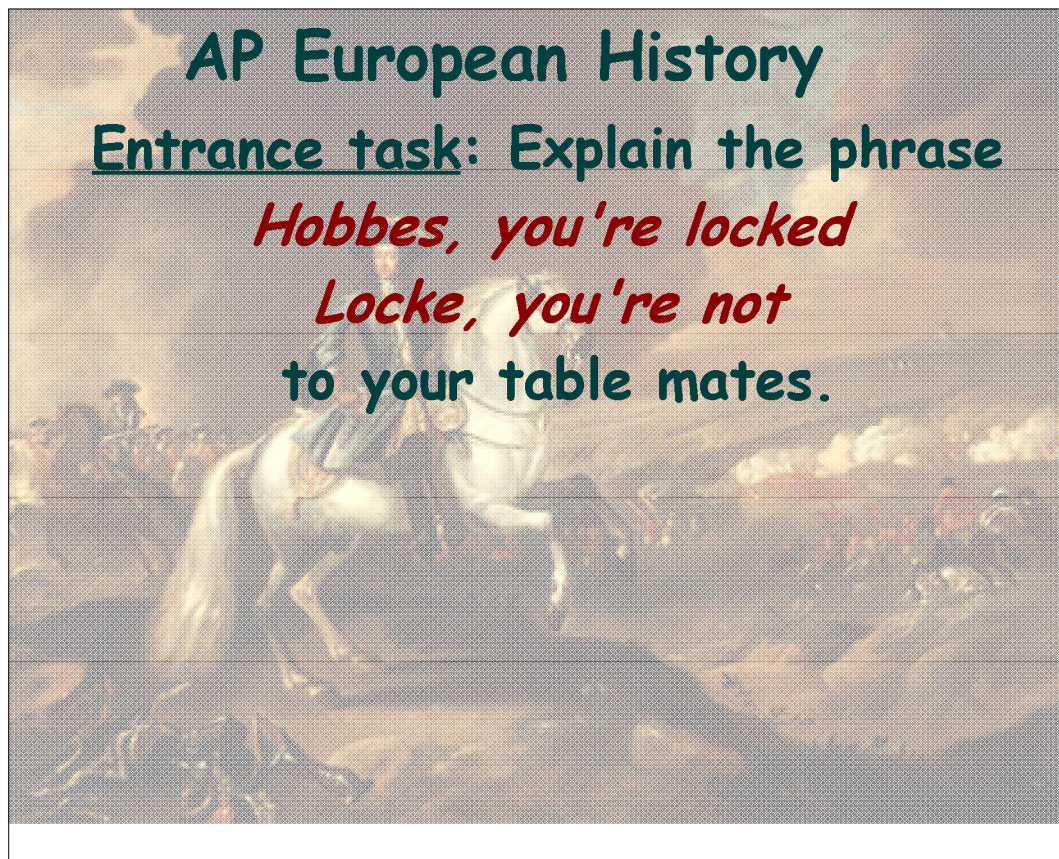
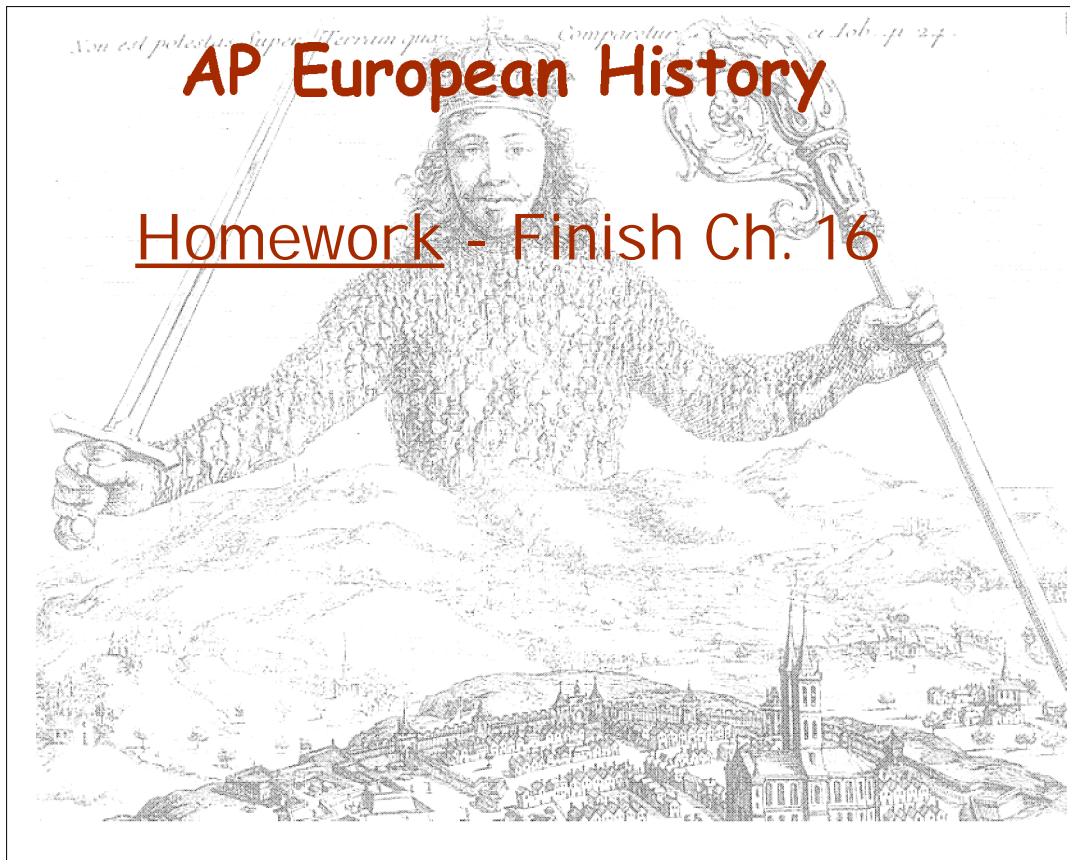
### John Locke -

- \* He viewed the Glorious Revolution as a perfect example of his political theory in action

Hobbes, you're locked  
Locke, you're not

Video clip - English Civil War  
Start at 3:39 (6 min)



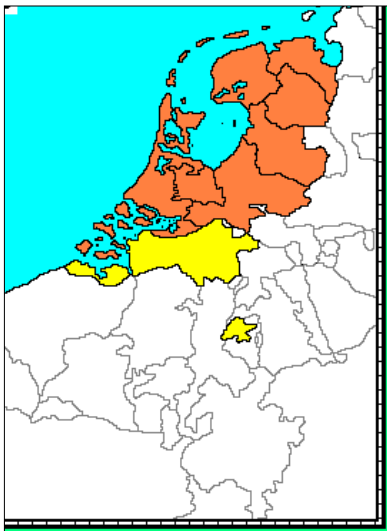
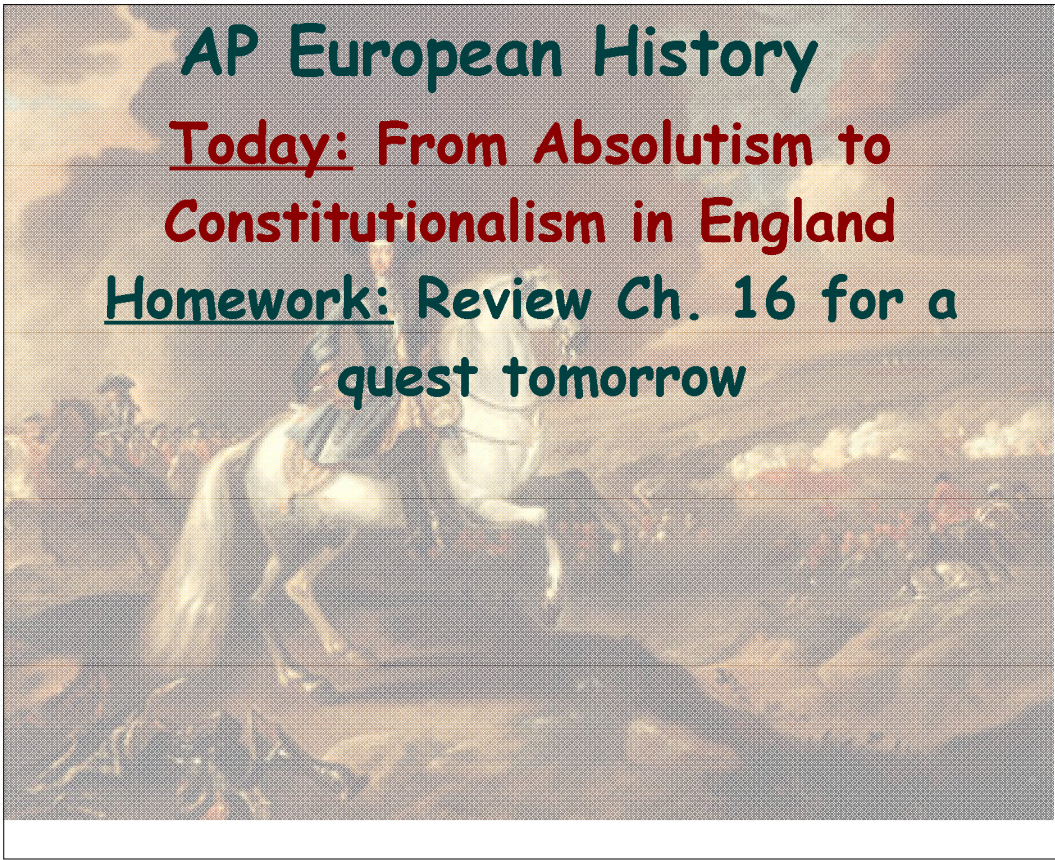




## AP European History

Today: From Absolutism to  
Constitutionalism in England

Homework: Review Ch. 16 for a  
quest tomorrow

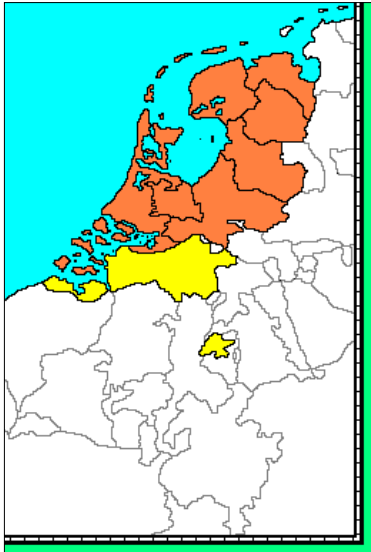


### 17th c. Dutch Republic

- \* Seven provinces (the Netherlands) were governed by assemblies of wealthy merchants (Estates)

- \* States General - a federal assembly ran foreign policy, appointed a rep (stadholder) in each province.



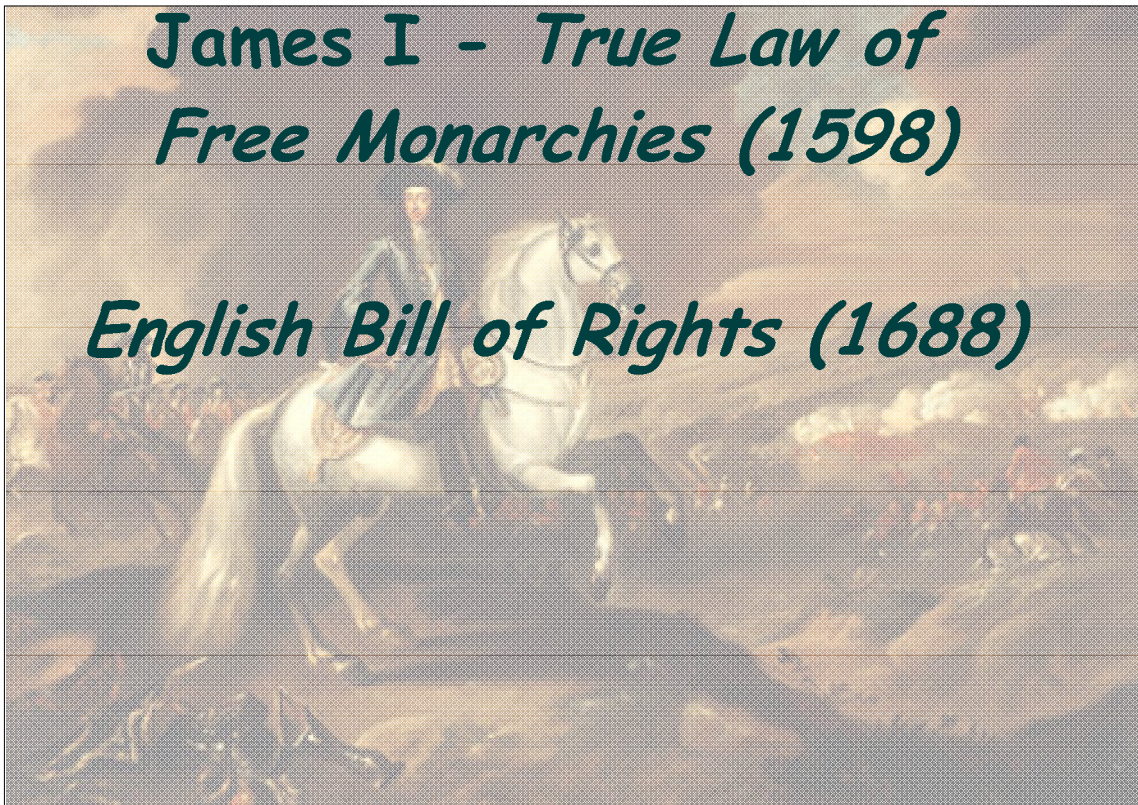


## 17th c. Dutch Republic

- \* Commercially successful with more than half ships in Europe & highest standard of living in Europe
- \* Practiced religious toleration

*James I - True Law of Free Monarchies (1598)*

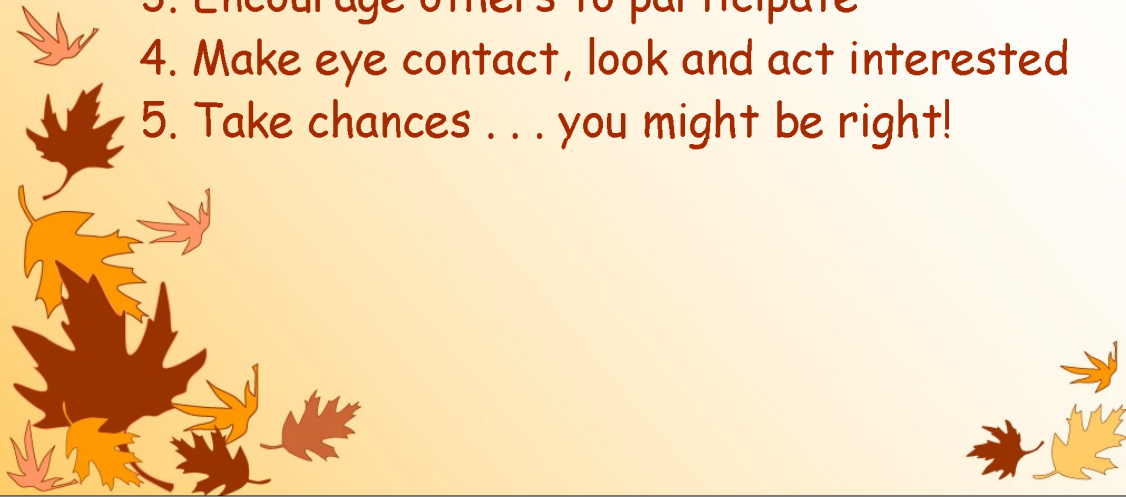
*English Bill of Rights (1688)*



## Table Discussion

### Rules of the Road

1. Stay on topic
2. Listen to others and build on their ideas  
(it's called a *discussion*)
3. Encourage others to participate
4. Make eye contact, look and act interested
5. Take chances . . . you might be right!



In what specific ways did the English Bill of Rights contradict the goals and concepts of monarchs as described by King James I in *The True Law of Monarchies*?

# True Law of Free Monarchies

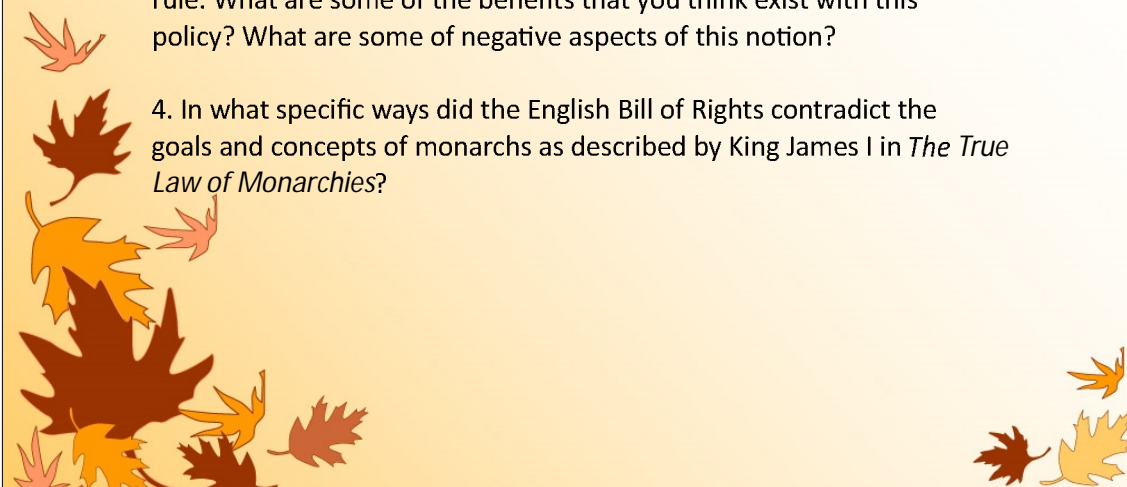
- \* What powers did kings in Scotland have?
- \* What were the benefits and shortcomings of such powers?
- \* Compare those powers with the English Bill of Rights. What specific conflicts exist?

1. What was King James I's view of the role of the monarchy?  
From where did he believe this power evolved?  
Why might he have felt this way?

2. Thomas Hobbes believed that absolutism was the best form of government. What are some reasons that support this position? What arguments contradict this notion?

3. John Locke believed that the people give their rulers their consent rule. What are some of the benefits that you think exist with this policy? What are some of negative aspects of this notion?

4. In what specific ways did the English Bill of Rights contradict the goals and concepts of monarchs as described by King James I in *The True Law of Monarchies*?



# AP European History

Homework: Review Ch. 16  
for a quiz tomorrow